

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2787)
Connecticut Road
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-U

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2787)

HAER No. NY-326-U

Location: Connecticut Road, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York

UTM: 18.622980.4945020
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2787 provided separate telecommunications and Data Processing Installation (DPI) Space. The telecommunications portion of the facility provided a centrally located, common user communications system for intrabase and interbase communications, as well as other required communications (exclusive of navigational aids hardware). Cable from the base transmitter and receiver buildings and other base communications systems feed through this structure. Control of all ground point-to-point contact and air-ground point-to-point contact (radio, teletype, telephone, etc.) was exercised from this facility. The DPI utilized base-level automated data processing equipment (ADPE) and conducted related operational and support functions.

Project Information: Building No. 2787 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

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Summary Description of Telecommunications Facility (Building No. 2787)

Layout

Building No. 2787 is 13,588 square-foot, one-story, concrete block building that has a flat roof. It is irregular in plan, with three offsets. Of the overall square footage, 7,515 square-feet were occupied by telecommunications concerns and 6,375 square feet were dedicated to Data Processing Installation (DPI) space.

Building No. 2787 has newer one-over-one, double-hung metal sash windows (circa 1985) occurring either individually, in pairs or in groups of three; the building also has bands of metal awning windows. Although the original windows have been replaced, the general fenestration pattern is intact. Most of the windows have security screens that were installed between 1961 and 1963. The interior of the building was not inspected.

Alterations/Additions

Although the original fenestration pattern remains intact, the original windows have been replaced with the aforementioned single, paired, or triple one-over-one metal sash windows or bands of awning windows, with the security screen being added thereto.

Function

Building No. 2787 was originally used as a squadron operations facility for briefing, planning, critiquing, and administering combat crews. Its utilization code was changed in 1968 to Warehouse Supplies and Equipment Base and the building was used for storing materials that required maximum weather protection. It was last used as the communications facility.

Significance

Telecommunications, especially ground point-to-point and air-ground point-to-point contact, and data processing needs of a Strategic Air Command (SAC) installation were substantial and critical to the success of the installation's overall mission. Because Building No. 2795 provided the requisite space essential to those highly technical functions, it was critical to the United State's Cold War-era defensive efforts.

Sources

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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2787)
HAER No. NY-326-U
(Page 3)

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United States Air Force

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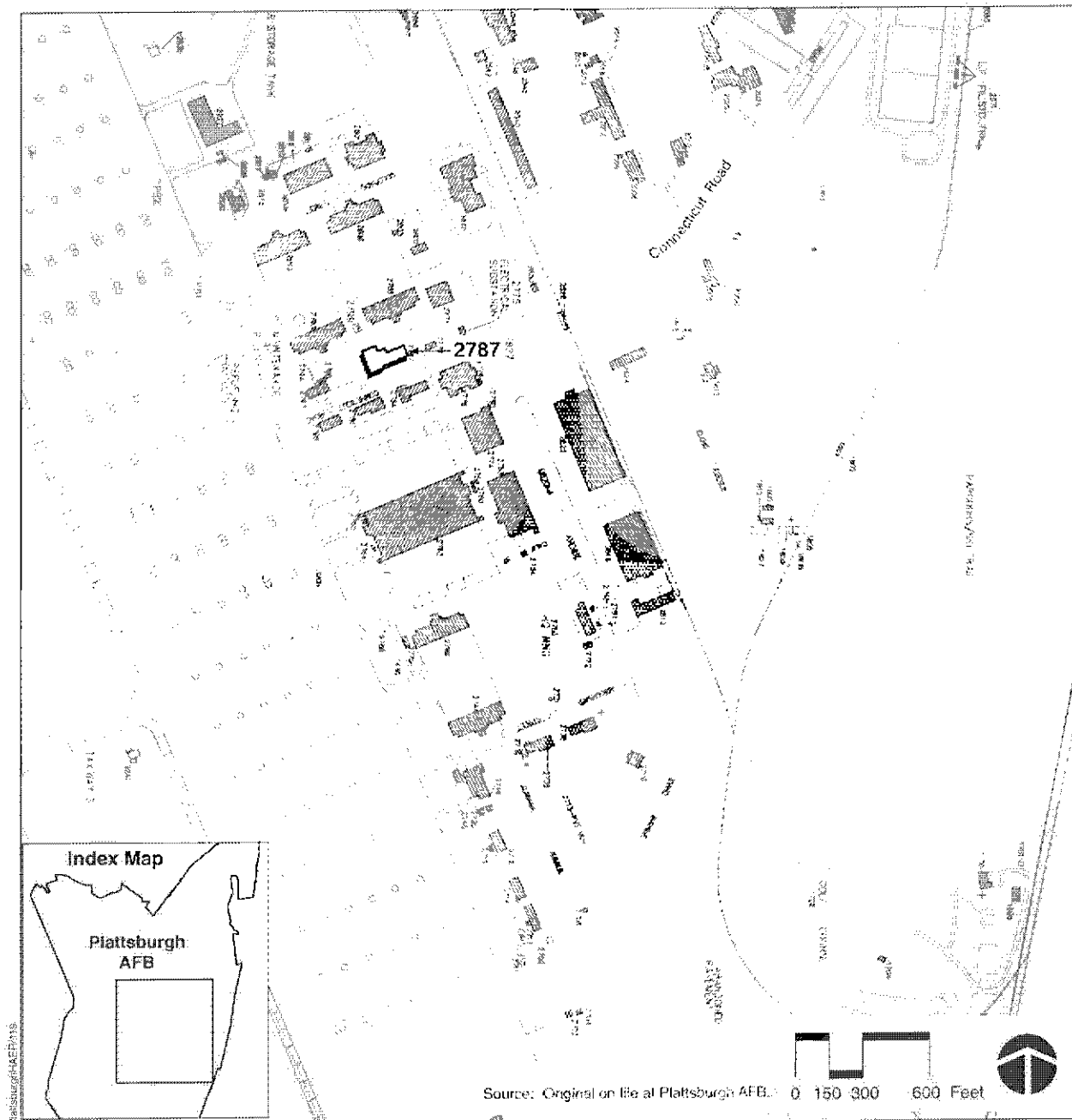
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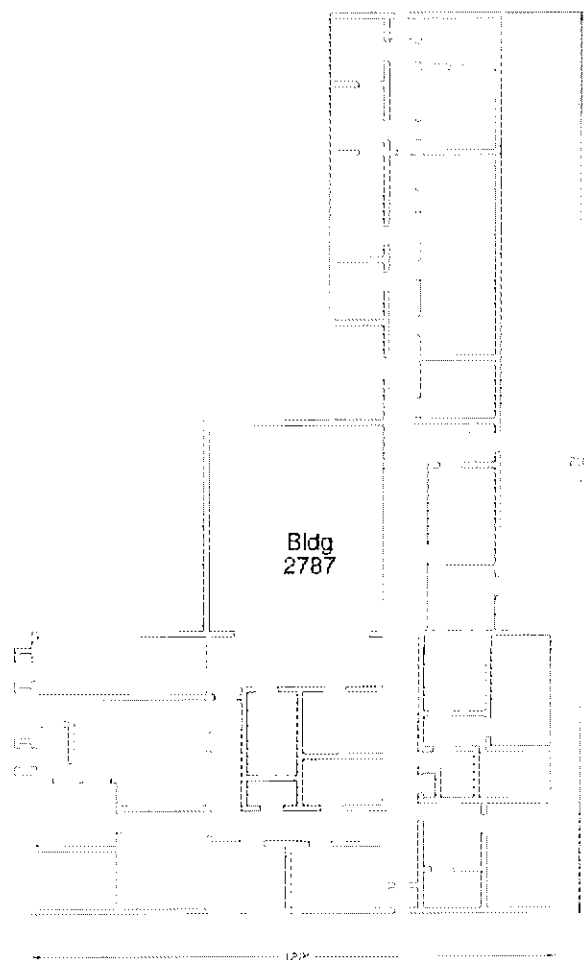
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUILDING
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2787)
HAER No. NY-326-U (Page 4)



Location Map for Telecommunications Building, Building No. 2787
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2787)
HAER No. NY-326-U
(Page 5)



Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN—TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2787)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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